

horses, pigs, several breeds of oxen, the bison, the red deer, the Irish elk, and such like, were the characteristic forms of neolithic times. . . .

How then are all these facts to be accounted for? . . . The answer which I give to all these queries is simply this—the palæolithic deposits are of pre-Glacial and inter-Glacial age, and do not, in any part, belong to post-Glacial times. They are either entirely wanting, or very sparingly represented, in the midland and northern counties, in Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, because all those regions have again and again been subjected to the grinding action of land-ice, and the destructive influence of the sea. But in those districts which were not submerged during the last great depression of the land, and in such regions as were never overwhelmed by the confluent ice-masses, the valley gravels form a continuous series of records from pre-Glacial times to the present day. . . . To the last inter-Glacial period, then, we must refer the great bulk of the palæolithic river-gravels of the south-east of England.’¹

I go further than this, for though it cannot be proved to a demonstration that man inhabited our area in pre-Glacial times, yet the concurrence of probabilities that he did so is so great, that I have a profound conviction that, at that epoch, here he must have been. I have already more than hinted at his presence in the south, in the caves of Devonshire, while the more northern areas were shrouded in ice (p. 462). If he inhabited the British area during inter-Glacial times, why should he have come at that precise period and not before. It seems to me much more probable that he did live here before the Glacial epoch began, and that he retired to

¹ ‘Great Ice Age,’ pp. 530 and 531.